

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

The bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ



The Rock Hill church of Christ

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Worship Times:

- Bible Class — 9:00AM
- Sunday Worship — 10:00AM
- Sunday PM Worship — 6:00PM
- Wednesday Bible study — 7:00PM

Elders:

- Jim Boles
- Charles Haley
- Doug Jones
- Scott Wallace

Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

Deacons:

- Reiven Holt
- Hugh Ruebush
- John Smetzer
- Burley Stinnett
- Fernando Zapata

*"We're Here
and We Care"*

FULFILLING THE MYSTERY OF GOD

At the time of Jesus' life, it was considered by Him to be 'the last days'. Look at **Hebrews 1:1-2** "God, hath in these last days, spoken unto us by His Son." We can also look at **Acts 2:14-17** to confirm the fulfillment of the Prophet Joel in **Joel 2:28** concerning the events recorded in the 2nd chapter of Acts. "Peter, standing up with the eleven, said, this is that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel, and it shall come to pass in the last days saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh..." The things that the apostles were so privileged to see and hear was the coming of the Messiah. It also marked the establishment of the Lord's church, the revealing of the GOSPEL, and the giving of the Holy Spirit. In **Acts 2:47** the Bible tells us that many were "added to the church". We can see that the church, which had only been prophesied, was now in existence. Indeed, the apostles were unique to the time and were unique to have been given the responsibility to be a part of this great event.

Not only was the event unique: the events concerning Jesus; the Gospel; the giving of the Holy Spirit; and the establishment of the church were withheld until God revealed them at the precise time. Look at **Romans 16:25-26**, "Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but is now made manifest (made known), and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandments of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith."

If we look at **1 Timothy 3:16**, Paul tells Timothy, "Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest n the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the gentiles, believed on in the world, and received up into glory."

Although it was talked about for many generations, the unique plan of God came to fruition on the Day of Pentecost in the year AD 33. From Jerusalem went forth the Law...the word of God...revealed to the apostles...guided by the Holy Spirit of God...written for our learning. It was brought forth by the apostles as they carried out the 'Great Commission' as instructed in **Matthew 28:19** and **Mark 16:15-16**.

Doug Jones

Family News

"For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." Ephesians 2:18,19

If you are visiting our congregation, welcome! If you have questions, we welcome them; please do not hesitate to ask Park Linscomb, our minister (the tall guy) or any other church member.

N . E . W . S .

HOUSE TO HOUSE, HEART TO HEART is an evangelistic publication which we are having



Jack Evans in it.

WELCOME HOME all you Deer Run campers! Reports are that everyone had a great time of fun and spiritual uplift. We missed you, but are so glad you went!

MEETING WITH

JACK EVANS has been scheduled for August 20-23 — "In Christ



we have a definite plan, so be looking for him, but be sure to invite.

A CHURCH

and, normally, will be collecting while the Rue-

are out of town.

THE REGULAR LADIES' CLASS has gone into

summer season mode. Their next meeting will be July 18. Touch base with Linda Stinnett for details and topics to be discussed.

CONDOLENCES — Mary Hall's daughter, Sharon, passed away late Saturday evening. This is such heartbreaking news for us as we know how Mary took care of Sharon for so long. It is so sad for a parent to lose a child, no matter at what age they are. Keep Mary and her daughter Brenda (Sharon's sister) in your prayers.

A BIT OF GOOD NEWS — Last Monday's hard rain did overwhelm our drainage ability, however, the flooding was minimal and easily fixed — thanks be to God.

PRAYER UPDATE

- Park's cataract surgery went well, and he is deeply appreciative to all who offered prayers on his behalf.

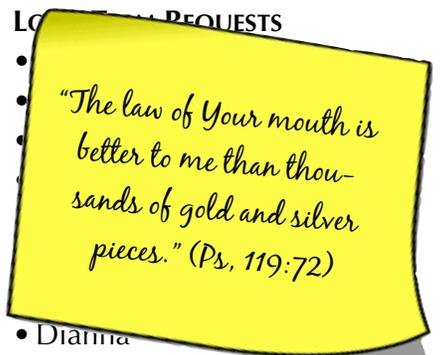
OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Sandy L's sister, Lisa, will be getting hospice care in Mississippi .
- Folks traveling on vacation or to camp
- Cleve Stafford's grand-daughter Peyton, struggling
- Isela Hughes asks for prayers for her sister Griselda Walters.
- Sarai Lyons asks for prayers for Tiffany Myers.
- Dianna C's recuperation from chemo
- Bonnie D. broken shoulder

- Julia's friend Wendy with breast cancer
- Sue Carter
- Isela H.'s friend Jeff, cancer.
- Ora Holt, kidney
- the churches in New England
- brethren in India
- our congregational leaders

LOCAL REQUESTS

- Diana C.
- Ken C.



READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Jul 9, Pro 1-4
- Jul 10, Pro 5-8
- Jul 11, Pro 9-13
- Jul 12, Pro 14-17
- Jul 13, Pro 18-21
- Jul 14, Pro 22-24
- Jul 15, Pro 25-28
- Jul 16, Pro 29-31

A Word of Encouragement

"For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it." Hebrews 2:1, NAS95.

HOW NOT TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE...

In my last article I wrote about the common sense principles for interpreting Scripture. At this point, I thought I'd focus on **poor** ways to understand God's words. These are approaches to Scriptures that really exist, and are used by some—but not for the purpose of understanding what the Lord says, as much as attempting to make the Lord's word say what they want.

"Love Letters". This approach to interpretation sees the Bible, especially the letters of the New Testament, as love letters to the churches. When viewed in this way, the commands turn into suggestions, proposals, or counsel. They are "love letters" that coax us, appeal to us, and seek to woo us; but in the end would never judge or condemn us. Of course, anyone who's ever read Galatians 1:8, 9; Matthew 7:21-23; John 3:3-5; 1 Corinthians 16:22; James 2:14-20; and others would have a hard time finding anything but hard edges. The Scripture is a gift of love from our heavenly Father, but we should never mistake it for a mere love letter.

"Occasional letters". It's an academic term meaning that the books of the Bible were written on a *unique* occasion, to a *unique* people, at a *unique* time in history, living in a *unique* society, with *unique* problems, for a *unique* reason—and therefore, have no real application to modern mankind. This makes the Bible merely a curiosity, a history book full of stories and teachings that have no meaning to us at all. Contrary to this approach, however, Paul (among others) teaches us, (1 Corinthians 10:11) "Now these things happened to them [Old Testament people] as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." Men's sins, weaknesses, situations, and problems haven't changed since the creation; and God's solutions remain just as valid, just as fresh, just as applicable as the day that Jesus, Paul, Peter, James, and John said them.

"The writers were primitive, naive, and culturally biased." This attempt to interpret (or reinterpret) the Bible comes from an arrogant assumption that modern men are more intelligent, more sophisticated, less gullible, and more advanced than men of the ancient world. According to this approach to Scripture there are things that may have applied then, but don't apply now—things like gender roles, sexual morality, and even stories about creation and miracles. Their smug reasoning goes that primitive mankind needed its fairy tales and artificial boundaries, but that our mature age needs no more myths or boundaries. Yet increased scientific knowledge has only validat-

ed the "fairy tales" of creation, the flood, and the beginning of history. And the evidence of the world around us makes it clear that the problem of mankind really hasn't changed—sin; and the solution remains the same—Christ. The holy nature of God and His Son Jesus remains the same yesterday, today, and forever—Hebrews 13:8; and God's truth is eternally valid—not subject to a calendar or any so-called maturation of mankind.

"Scripture may be treated like a cafeteria." This method of interpretation is a popular one that allows any individual reader of Scripture to determine which books, passages, verses, and words are inspired and which are not—on the basis of what "I feel". In this sort of reading of Scripture, each person's reading is individually and uniquely understood, with the result that we can make the Bible say pretty much anything we want. The problem is, of course, that this is not a valid way to understand anyone or anything. It is the sum of God's word that is the truth (Psalm 119:160), not just some.

"Objective Truth doesn't exist." This manner of reading the Bible reduces Scripture to mere "interesting reading". It comes from the modern notion that absolute truth doesn't exist, and it is why you might occasionally hear, "That is his truth, but it's not my truth." This is a deep deception; it is an obvious deception; and it comes directly from the bowels of Hell. Truth does exist, it comes from God (whether scientific, spiritual, or otherwise), it is singular (there are not multiple truths about the same thing), and it does matter both here and in eternity.

"Details don't matter." Lastly, for now, there are those who want to interpret the Bible in only the broadest strokes; as long as you're somewhere close, it's OK. But "close enough" isn't a good interpretative approach. The details of specific commands matter. When you're baking a cake, it does matter whether you use salt or sugar, even if they're both white and granular. And it matters to God whether we're sprinkled or immersed, whether we sing or play music, whether we use bread and wine or steak and coffee, whether we confess Jesus or Zeus. It isn't true that "It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you believe something."

There is no more important information in the world than that which we find in the Bible. Let's not try to find ways around its truth, but read it to discover exactly what it is that our gracious Creator wants to tell us.

Park Linscomb

